

Star Gazers

STGZ222

07/25 - 07/31

JUPITER IS IN RETROGRADE (DONT FRET)

ONE LINER: How to find our largest planet and understand it's motion.

HEY STAR GAZERS, TRACE HERE —

JUPITER IS ABOUT TO GO INTO RETROGRADE OH NOOOOO. NO REALLY IT'LL BE FINE. FIRST, LET'S FIND JUPITER —

HIT THE DARKNESS AFTER MIDNIGHT ANY NIGHT THIS WEEK AND LOOK EAST. THERE YOU'LL SEE A BRIGHT DOT. THAT'S THE GAS GIANT JUPITER, THE BIGGEST PLANET IN OUR SOLAR SYSTEM – IT COULD CONTAIN OUR WHOLE PLANET IN A SINGLE RED ATMOSPHERIC STORM.

IF YOU COULD WATCH IT MOVING – WHICH WE CAN SHOW YOU HERE THANKS TO THE MAGIC OF TV – IT WOULD APPEAR TO MOVE ONE WAY, THEN TURN AROUND AND GO BACKWARDS! THIS IS CALLED RETROGRADE MOTION.

EVERY PLANET MOVES AROUND THE SUN AT DIFFERENT SPEEDS. WHEN WE PASS ANOTHER PLANET IN ORBIT, IT APPEARS TO SWITCH DIRECTIONS! THIS FREAKS SOME PEOPLE OUT, BUT IT'S JUST AN OPTICAL ILLUSION.

THIS HAPPENS OFTEN WHEN DRIVING, WALKING, OR WHATEVER. THERE'S NO ILL INTENT, JUPITER IS JUST ON IT'S OWN PATH! IT'LL GO FORWARD AGAIN IN LATE-NOVEMBER. KEEP LOOKIN' UP!